

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SY-05 CU-02 IO-13 ACDA-07 SCCT-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /089 W

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R 161445Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5140

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, GW, GE

SUBJECT: GDR CORRESPONDENT INJURED DURING POLITICAL DEMONSTRATION

1. ULTRA-RIGHTEST GERMAN NATIONALIST PARTY (NPD)
STAGED DEMONSTRATION IN DOWNTOWN FRANKFURT AUGUST 14,
TO PROTEST ERECTION OF BERLIN WALL FIFTEEN YEARS AGO,
WHICH DEGENERATED INTO A SCUFFLE WITH ULTRA-LEFTIST
COUNTER-PROTESTERS FROM KPD AND KBW. IN THE TURMOIL,
A BONN-BASED, EAST GERMAN TELEVISION COMMENTATOR
CHRISTA GROTHE, SUFFERED A BROKEN ARM AND SCRATCHES
ON ARMS AND LEGS. MRS. GROTHE WENT TO FRANKFURT
HOSPITAL, WAS TREATED AND RELEASED.

2. OUR CONTACTS IN FRANKFURT POLICE ADMINISTRATION
SAY - AND NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS CONFIRM - THAT A
FRANKFURT STUDENT WAS STRUCK, AND PUSHED DURING THE
SCUFFLE AND FELL AGAINST MRS. GROTHE, KNOCKING HER
DOWN. THE STUDENT AND MRS. GROTHE WERE TREATED
IN THE SAME HOSPITAL, WHERE HE RECOGNIZED HER, AND
REPEATED HIS STORY TO HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES.

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3. MRS. GROTHE HAD GONE TO THE HOSPITAL ON HER OWN

AND WAS NEVER IN POLICE CUSTODY. WHEN INTERVIEWED BY HOPISTAL PERSONNEL, SHE SAID THAT SHE AND HER HUSBAND WERE IN FRANKFURT ON A SHOPPING TRIP AND GOT CAUGHT IN MELEE. SHE WAS NOT HERE AS A CORRESPONDENT AND WAS NOT WEARING PRESS BADGE. SHE CONFIRMED STUDENT'S ACCOUNT.

4. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT GDR NEWS AGENCY (ADN) HAS CARRIED ARTICLES TO THE EFFECT THAT MRS. GROTHE WAS BEATEN BY LOCAL POLICE, AND THAT GDR PRESS ASSOCIATION HAS PROTESTED AGAINST ALLEGED "SERIOUS VIOLATION" OF FRD-GDR AGREEMENT ON OWRKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR JOURNALISTS. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, THERE IS NO BASIS FOR THESE ASSERTIONS.LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

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